



KINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Public Health Inspector
for the year 1970

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1845

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1970)

R.A. BANKS	Chairman of the Council
J.K. DAWSON	Vice-Chairman of the Council
J.E.A. DEACON	
R.D. BAILEY	
P.H. BRIGGS	Chairman of the Finance & Planning Committee
E.L. GREGORY	
T.R. JAMES	Chairman of the Development Committee
P. JOHNSON	
J.H. LANGSTON	
A.W. LLOYD	
B.M. PENNELL	Chairman of the General Purposes Committee
E.R. SMITH	
MISS L. STEPHENS	
H.S. THOMAS	
H.B. VAUGHAN	

Clerk of the Council .. Mrs. D.M. Branston

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON

From the first settlement to the year 1630	Vol. I.
From the year 1630 to the year 1690	Vol. II.
From the year 1690 to the year 1740	Vol. III.
From the year 1740 to the year 1790	Vol. IV.
From the year 1790 to the year 1840	Vol. V.
From the year 1840 to the year 1890	Vol. VI.
From the year 1890 to the year 1940	Vol. VII.
From the year 1940 to the year 1990	Vol. VIII.
From the year 1990 to the year 2040	Vol. IX.
From the year 2040 to the year 2090	Vol. X.
From the year 2090 to the year 2140	Vol. XI.
From the year 2140 to the year 2190	Vol. XII.
From the year 2190 to the year 2240	Vol. XIII.
From the year 2240 to the year 2290	Vol. XIV.
From the year 2290 to the year 2340	Vol. XV.
From the year 2340 to the year 2390	Vol. XVI.
From the year 2390 to the year 2440	Vol. XVII.
From the year 2440 to the year 2490	Vol. XVIII.
From the year 2490 to the year 2540	Vol. XIX.
From the year 2540 to the year 2590	Vol. XX.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam, Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1970, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector, Mr. Arney, which contains much technical material and detail, and which I heartily recommend the members to read for its general interest.

I am very pleased to report the fifth successive year without an infant death, although the occurrence of two still births spoil the excellent record in this respect.

The health of the district remained satisfactory, only 4 cases of infectious disease being notified.

I would like to thank Mr. Arney for his help and cooperation during the year, and wish him well in his retirement to Marlborough.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

G.D.K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westfield Walk,

LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

N.J. ARNEY, C.R.S.H., A.I.A.S. (retd), (Retired 28.2.71)

H. SHEPHERD, (From 1.3.71)

Building Surveyor and Public Health Inspector,

2, Mill Street,

KINGTON.

(Telephone: Kington 202)

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	857
Estimated mid-year home population	1,970
Average number of persons per acre	2.3
Number of inhabited houses	684
Average number of inhabited houses per acre	0.8
Average number of persons per house	2.9
Rateable value	£68,738
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£273

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	15	6	21
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	15	6	21

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.13	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966
Kington U.D. (Crude)	10.7	14.2	10.5	18.4	16.8
" " (Adjusted)	12.1	16.0	11.9	20.8	18.9
England and Wales	16.0	16.3	16.9	17.2	17.7

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Kington U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	*

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966
Kington U.D.	125.0	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England and Wales	13.0	13.0	14.3	14.8	15.3

*figure not yet available

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Kington U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	11.0

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Kington U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	12.0

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Kington U.D.	..	125.0
England and Wales	..	23.0

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1970	1969	1968	1967	1966
Kington U.D.	(Total	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	(Legitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	(Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England and Wales	(Total	18.0	18.0	18.3	18.3	19.0

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths: Nil

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total		
Total number of deaths from all causes:	6	20	26		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
Comparability factor: 0.63	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966
Kington U.D. (Crude)	13.2	18.4	17.3	16.3	22.1
" " (Adjusted)	8.3	11.8	9.7	10.1	13.7
England and Wales	11.7	11.9	11.9	11.2	11.7

Cancer

	Males	Females	Total		
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:	-	2	2		
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966
Kington U.D.	1.01	2.11	4.19	1.05	5.79
England and Wales	*	2.35	2.27	2.27	2.25

Cardio-Vascular Disease

	Males	Females	Total		
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:	6	15	21		
Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966
Kington U.D.	10.66	13.16	7.85	10.53	12.10
England and Wales	*	6.01	6.06	5.77	5.97

*figures not yet available

Respiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total		
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	-	1	1		
Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966
Kington U.D.	0.51	1.05	3.66	1.58	2.10
England and Wales	*	1.77	1.75	1.37	1.60

*figure not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Other malignant neoplasms	-	1	1
Diabetes Mellitus	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	1	-	1
Ischaemic heart disease	3	7	10
Other forms of heart disease	-	2	2
Cerebrovascular disease	2	4	6
Other diseases of circulatory system	-	2	2
Bronchitis and emphysema	-	1	1
Peptic ulcer	-	1	1
	6	20	26

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - KINGTON U.D.

Disease	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966
Measles	3	1	22	17	31
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2	-
*Infective Jaundice	-	45	2	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	4	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	2	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	1	-	-	-	-
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	1	1

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE

Whooping Cough	-	4	18	47	37
Measles	146	35	526	314	271
Scarlet Fever	10	4	11	11	29
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective	-	-	-	-	2
Post-Infectious	-	-	1	-	-
*Infective Jaundice	10	106	8	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	2	-	-	1	-
Dysentery	2	1	17	285	92
Food Poisoning	16	9	6	10	9
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	3	4	1	3	4
Non-Pulmonary	1	2	3	2	3

*Notifiable from 15.6.68.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1970.

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Measles	-	1	-	-	-	23	59	34	5	1	6	17	146
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10
Infective Jaundice	-	2	4	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	10
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	4	7	-	16
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1

TUBERCULOSIS

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1966	1	14	-	-
1967	1	13	-	2
1968	-	12	-	-
1969	-	12	-	-
1970	1	13	-	-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number of cases on the Register at the end of the year:	6	6	1	Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORTGENERAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS

Environment seems to have been the fashionable word during the past year, but it does seem that, like charity, this begins at Home.

The greater the level of civilisation, the greater the level of pollution, and history has proved that man pollutes his own environment in proportionate scale to the level of civilisation in which he exists.

However, the affluent society has created the 'throw-away' society, and even the most negligent are now beginning to become concerned about the level which the daily output of waste has reached: even more serious than those which we can see daily are the pollutants which we cannot see and it appears that we are only beginning to appreciate the long-term effects of uncontrolled fumes from exhausts, industrial premises and chimneys. The hazards of indestructible wastes are gradually being realised.

The creation of the new Department of Environment is promising, and 1971 will be not only the year of the new White Paper on governmental reform but will also see the long-awaited Report of the Working Party on Refuse Disposal.

1. WATER SUPPLY

The source of the town's water remains the same as hitherto, viz, the spring at Crooked Well where it issues from the living rock at the bottom of Ivy Chimney, with augmentation as necessary, and some outlying properties are still supplied from individual springs and wells.

Quantity has on the whole remained ample for the town's needs for drinking and dietetic purposes, whilst as regards quality, the Analyst considers it to be suitable for use in a public supply.

Results of regular samples obtained and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford for bacteriological examination are summarised thus:

Source	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Mains supply	13	10	3*
Private supplies	1	1	-

* Repeat samples of these subsequently gave satisfactory results.

WATER SUPPLY (Continued)

Number of houses supplied direct from mains:	714
Number of houses supplied via standpipes:	3
Number of houses supplied by private undertaking:	1
Number of houses supplied by wells/springs:	8

2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND DRAINAGE"Taken for Granted"

The Working Party which was set up in 1969 to consider the public health, amenity and economic aspects of the various methods of sewerage and disposal, and in August 1970 produced a Report entitled "Taken for Granted" (because the disposal of sewage is taken for granted as long as it is effective and unnoticeable) which comprises a comprehensive survey of the means whereby sewage is disposed of and their effects - upon rivers, canals, estuaries and tidal rivers, the sea and upon land.

One of the recommendations is that expenditure on sewerage and sewage treatment plant should be substantially increased to provide adequate facilities at works for the production of satisfactory effluents.

The Report also concludes that in order to protect rivers and coastal waters from the growing volume and changing composition of sewage, a greater effort is necessary to control water pollution: also involving stricter control over the quality of water returned to the rivers. Increasing consumption for both domestic and industrial purposes may call for more re-use of water.

Also dealt with are the particular problems of effluent disposal in industry and agriculture, and education, training, and research in water pollution control. This is also in accord with the image of Conservation Year - 1970.

It is intended that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Welsh Board of Health will discuss the recommendations with the Associations of Local and River Authorities, and other interested organisations.

The sewage of the town of Kington, mainly domestic in character, gravitates to the Disposal Works at the Eastern 'salient' of the district where the purification plant operates on the same basis as described in last year's report.

During the year under review the remedial works required to rectify the damage caused by the collapse of the filters was put in hand and the defective walls replaced by segmental reinforced concrete retaining units on a prepared base under the direction of Consulting Engineers, and this resulted in an excellent job which it is confidently hoped will prove satisfactory for a good number of years.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND DRAINAGE (Continued)

After the completion of the scheme in the early Autumn, a sample of the effluent was taken on behalf of the Chemist of the Wye River Authority who made the comment that "the result is satisfactory - the works seem to have recovered quite well after the disturbance of the filter beds"

Number of houses connected to public sewers:	638
Number of houses connected to satisfactory private disposal works:	59
Number of houses utilising chemical or pail closets with satisfactory disposal:	29
Number of houses utilising chemical or pail closets with unsatisfactory disposal:	Nil

An extension of the Council's sewers was made to serve the private development plots to the north of the Greenfield Estate, and a length of private sewer was constructed at Crooked Well to serve 3 cottages under improvement.

3. COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

A weekly collection of household refuse is undertaken in the urban area, business premises in the centre having a bi-weekly collection.

Collection is operated by direct labour, a driver-cum-loader and another loader being engaged upon this, by means of a kerbside collection.

Consequent upon the preliminary work being carried out at the newly acquired tipping site in the rural area, thought was given to the arrangements for levelling and sealing off the existing tip on the obsolete sewage contact beds. Apart from the question of additional transport, it is anticipated that the new tip should operate satisfactorily for a number of years.

4. SWIMMING BATHS

Two swimming baths exist, one of the outdoor variety being situate in the grounds of the Lady Hawkins Bi-lateral school, and the other (which is an indoor learner type pool) is within the precincts of the County Primary School at Mill Street.

Both are supplied with water from the chlorinated piped mains supply, but are in possession of their own filtration and treatment plants; regular checks being carried out by the attendants in order to ensure a safe residual.

In all, six samples were taken from these pools during the season, and it is pleasing to be able to record that these gave highly satisfactory results on bacteriological examination.

5. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Existing facilities which are provided consist of ladies and gents. conveniences under one roof at the Recreation Ground and another (separate) at the town centre.

The gents. conveniences at the town centre being considered not entirely salubrious, the Council decided towards the end of 1970 to give consideration to the provision of new ones at the car park in Mill Street, utilising a derelict building in its ownership for the purpose.

6. RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Under the direction of the Council's Surveyor, one of the Council's employees acts as part-time rodent operator, and regular treatment at the refuse tip in the town is undertaken.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Annual Report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

<u>Properties other than sewers</u>	Type of Property	
	Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in district	825	6
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	34	-
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	34	-
(ii) Mice	-	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	20	-
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	1	-
(ii) Mice	-	-

Sewers

4. Were any sewers infested by rats during the year ?

NO.

7. HOUSING

(a) General

There appeared to be a nationwide shift of emphasis in public section policy to renovation and improvement during the year, with a consequent direction of some effort away from new housing in connection with constructional activity.

The demand for a larger type house, preferably standing in an appreciable amount of land becomes increasingly apparent and there is no doubt that the greatest appreciation in prices has been seen in later years in relation to the stepping-out of what is called the "semi league"

This was reflected in the Council's decision to proceed with the advance preparation of the private development sites to the north of Greenfield.

Under the Countryside Act of 1968, Planning Authorities are obliged to examine new building schemes in the light of the effect they will have on the natural beauty and amenities of the countryside. This is well demonstrated in the resulting attractive site works, tree and shrub planting at Greenfield.

The Land Commision was abolished - but what will take its place ? The levy has gone and the expensive gamble to make more land available for development has failed.

In looking to the future, it appears likely that for years to come local authorities will continue to be looked to in order to set the pace as it were in design as hitherto, but one foresees the possibility of the local authority providing only the shell of the house complete with essential services, the interior being built by the tenant (perhaps with financial assistance) from components which may be available.

This would allow him considerably greater sense of personal participation and consequent pride.

One hopes that amenities will be much more integrated into our way of life and that the expression "housing estate" will disappear from our vocabulary.

(b) Private housing

New houses completed during the year:	1
New houses under construction at the end of the year:	2
Flats (provided by conversion) during the year:	3

HOUSING (Continued)(c) Council housing

The erection of the 42 dwellings representing phase "A" of the Council's housing scheme at Greenfield was finalised by the completion of the flats and maisonettes in 2 blocks, the 12 x 3 bedroomed houses and the ancillary site works.

By the years' end tenders had been invited for the erection of a further 12 dwellings on land to the east of the first phase to form phase "B" of the scheme, and it is anticipated that early 1971 will see a start upon this contiguous development. The initial phase having broken the back of the housing problem as it existed at Kington, the new scheme should alleviate it even further.

(d) Tenancies

The "points" scheme as revised during the previous year continued to be operated in connection with the selection of tenants.

(e) Improvement Grants

The popularisation of improvement grants by the Housing Act of 1969 and subsequent publicity was reflected in an increased number of applications being forthcoming, and the number of grant-aid requests favourably considered and completed during the year as indicated in the appended table:-

	Applications	Number granted	Number completed
Standard Grants	7	7	5
Improvement Grants	4	4	Nil*
Totals:	11	11	5

* An interim payment was made on partial completion of the work in one case and the remaining 4 were in train at 31st December. Some dwellings were provided with standard amenities without requisition for grant-aid.

8. CARAVAN SITES

A licence was granted under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, for the use of land for one residential caravan for a period of 3 years, and Planning sanction obtained for this.

Caravan on the housing site was removed after completion of the scheme.

9. THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963Annual report under Section 60 to the Minister

Class of Premises	Premises registered during the year	Total premises registered at the end of year	Premises receiving general inspection during the year	Number of persons employed
Offices	-	1	1	8
Retail shops	-	5	5	24
Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	-	-	-
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	-	3	3	6
Fuel storage depots	-	2	2	4
Totals	-	11	11	42
				(Males 19 Females 23)

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises: 15

10. FOOD PREMISES AND INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The principal food premises in the town may be summarised as follows:

Dairies (milk store)	1
Slaughterhouse	1
Butchers shops	3
Bakehouses	3
Public Houses	12
Fish Fryers	2
Restaurants & kitchens	3
Miscellaneous	17

42

Inspections made: 45

The licence relating to the small local private slaughterhouse was renewed for a further 12 months and 3 slaughtermen's licences were also renewed.

Food inspections

Comparatively small amounts of food were examined from time to time and voluntarily surrendered on being found unfit for human consumption.

FOOD PREMISES AND INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS
(Continued)

Food Inspections (Continued)

A case of glass in a milk bottle brought to the notice of the office was investigated and pursued with the wholesalers: an acceptable explanation was furnished and an assurance given that a recurrence of the incident would be avoided.

Meat Inspection

Regular bi-weekly post-mortem examinations of the carcasses and offal of all home-killed food animals are undertaken at the slaughterhouse. Particulars of the numbers slaughtered and inspected are appended:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	112	Nil	Nil	54	280
<u>All diseases except Tuber- culosis and Cysticerchi</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	Nil	Nil	5	2
<u>Tuberculosis and Cysticerchi</u>					
Whole carcasses or part condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Total number of home-killed food animals .. 446

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPSFactories Act, 1961Inspections

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sec.1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	23	17	3	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A.	18	6	2	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding our-workers' premises)	1	1	Nil	Nil
Total	42	24	5	Nil

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	1	3	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	1	-

Old Railway Station Site

The land occupied by the former (obsolete) railway station was acquired by the Council during the year and application made for its use as an industrial trading estate in part. Approval was granted and at the end of the year a small factory making glass fibre seats and fairings was allowed possession of a site and vacant building, and plans implemented for the conversion of a building to cloakroom and toilet accommodation.

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